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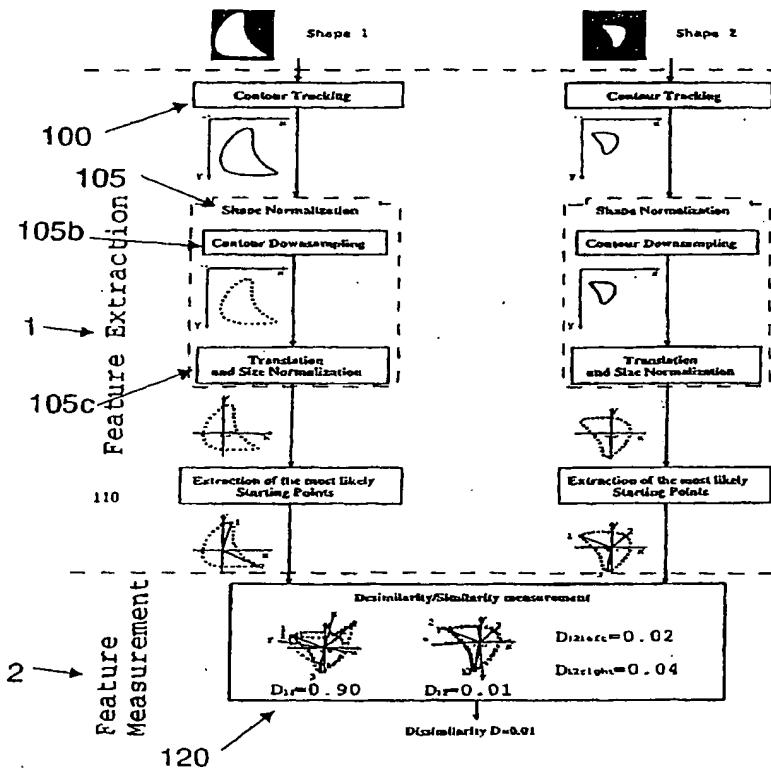
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(54) Title: SHAPE MATCHING METHOD FOR INDEXING AND RETRIEVING MULTIMEDIA DATA



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for indexing and retrieving multimedia data. In particular the invention provides a method of comparing at least two sets of multimedia data using shape information in order to provide a dissimilarity measure between the sets. The invention finds use in retrieving images or parts of sequences based on their content in image and video sequence databases.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IE2004/000042

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F G06K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>LIANG-KAI H ET AL: "Efficient shape matching through model-based shape recognition" PATTERN RECOGNITION, ELSEVIER, KIDLINGTON, GB, vol. 29, no. 2, 1 February 1996 (1996-02-01), pages 207-215, XP004006252 ISSN: 0031-3203 page 208, right-hand column, line 5 - line 14 section 3, page 209 - page 213</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	1-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

18 November 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

26/11/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IE2004/000042

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Category	Relevant to claim No.
A	VAN DER HEIJDEN G W A M: "Construction of a polygonal model using the Fisher-ratio criterion" PATTERN RECOGNITION, 1994. VOL. 1 - CONFERENCE A: COMPUTER VISION & IMAGE PROCESSING., PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12TH IAPR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JERUSALEM, ISRAEL 9-13 OCT. 1994, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, 9 October 1994 (1994-10-09), pages 210-215, XP010215998 ISBN: 0-8186-6265-4 abstract page 211, left-hand column, line 37 - line 42 page 212, left-hand column, line 1 - line 12 -----	1,3
A	DAHAI C ET AL: "Recognition of handwritten digits based on contour information" PATTERN RECOGNITION, ELSEVIER, KIDLINGTON, GB, vol. 31, no. 3, 1 March 1998 (1998-03-01), pages 235-255, XP004101845 ISSN: 0031-3203 abstract section 3, page 239 - page 242	1-11, 16, 17
A	QUANG MINH T ET AL: "An application of wavelet-based affine-invariant representation" PATTERN RECOGNITION LETTERS, NORTH-HOLLAND PUBL. AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 16, no. 12, 1 December 1995 (1995-12-01), pages 1287-1296, XP004000007 ISSN: 0167-8655 section 2.2, page 1290 - page 1291	1,5-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IE2004/000042

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 19 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 19

Claim 19 refers to other parts of the application, which is contrary to Rule 6.2a PCT. It is indeed not possible to clearly define the scope of the claim only based on the drawings.

Therefore, a meaningful search of claim 19 was not possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.